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GUY DE CHAULIAC.

A new MS. including the „Practica Astrolabii.”

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Among the treasured manuscripts of the Bristol City Library is one which formed part of the collection of Matthew, Archbishop of York, who in 1615 bequeathed a portion of his books and manuscripts to the City, with which his family had long been connected. This manuscript is a work on Surgery in Latin by Guido Chauliac (Guy de Chauliac, 1300-1368) and the copy in Bristol was made by John Tourtier for John, Duke of Bedford between the dates 1420-1435.

The book is complete and includes a preliminary treatise on astrology, while to the end of the Surgery is appended a Latin-English glossary of words.

The first five double pages are occupied by the “astrology” which begins: “Practica Astrolabii. De nominibus instrumentorum astrolabii,” and ends with the usual word “explicit,” without dedication or other explanatory sentence. It deals with methods of determining the position and influence of the planets, stars, etc. After this are ten double pages blank as though perhaps the copyist had intended to include at some later date the other treatises on “Cataract” and “Hernia.”

Then comes “La Grande Chirurgie” in full, the first page being headed by two miniatures in a grey-brown ink, one representing a monk handing a scroll (? this MS.) to a nobleman surrounded by his retinue (? John Duke of Bedford): the writing begins in red ink.

“In dei nomine incipit inventarium seu collectarium in parte chirurgicali medicinae compilatum et completum anno Domini Millesimo tricentesimo sexagesimo tercio per Guidonem de Caulhiaco Chirurgicum Magistrum in medicina in preclaro studio Montispessulani. Quodquid inventarium seu collectarium fecit scribi et taliter ordinari venerabilis vir magister Johannes Tourtier Magister in Cirurgia ad requestam altissimi excellentissimique et potentis principis Domini Johannis ducis de bedford Regentis regni Francie et Protectoris regni Angliae:”

After this follows in black the usual prologue: “Postquam primo gratias egero deo omnipotenti.”

The seven books prefaced by an index then follow without omission

or any flaw. At the beginning of each book are miniatures representing various surgical or anatomical subjects different from those reproduced in Nicaise's edition of 1890, the costumes being of an earlier date.

The interest of this manuscript lies chiefly in the fact that it is not mentioned in the excellent edition of Guy de Chauliac which Dr. Nicaise 1) edited in 1890, nor indeed was its existence then recognised, for Nicaise writes thus: "Guy dit, dans sa 'Chirurgie,' qu'il a fait un livre d'astrologie (p. 171, il l'appelle un 'libellus de astrologie,' p. 566, un 'tractatus de astronomia,' et p. 585, un 'libellus de astronomia.')

En réalité, il s'agit d'un petit traité sur l'astrologie. A cette époque, tout médecin devait être un peu astrologue; Guy le dit à son lecteur: 'Car il faut que tu sois astrologue.' D'après l'*Apollinare sacrum* de Ranchin, Guy aurait appris l'astrologie d'Arnaud de Villeneuve, et aurait dédié son traité à Clément VI.

Ce que Guy a écrit sur ce sujet est perdu, il n'en existe ni Ms. ni imprimé."

Further, in his description of the twenty-two Latin MSS. of which Nicaise was aware, this Bristol MS. does not appear.

There can be no doubt that the copy was made within a few years of Guy de Chauliac's death (1368), for the Duke of Bedford only became Regent of France in 1420 and died in 1435, while after the battle of Verneuil his time was too much occupied in fighting to have ordered such a work to be executed. We may assume that the MS. dates from between the 'perpetual peace' of Troyes and the battle of Verneuil (i.e 1420-1424.)

An attempt to identify 'Johannes Tourtier Magister in Cirurgia' has been rewarded by finding a remarkably similar name among the surgeons of Paris in 1424, where among "Les Statuts des Chirurgiens de Paris (granted by Charles vi. October, 1381), additions of 1424" occurs the following statute: 2)

XXXIII.

"Item, avecque les ordonnances dessusdites, ordonnerent, affermerent a tenir ferme et estable, les maistres cy apres nommez. Cest assavoir, Jehan le Conte, Henry de Troies, Adam Martin, Jehan Gillebert, Michiel le Charron, Jehan Dessoubzlefour, Jehan Fourtier, Guillame de la Chappelle, Geoffroy Serre, Roger Renoult. Denis Palluau, que pour aucuns certains grans affaires et necessitez que les dessus nommez ont et peuvent avoir

1). Nicaise "La Grande Chirurgie" by Guy de Chauliac, 1890.

2). Nicaise "Henri de Mondeville" 1893.

affaire, pour les besongnes de ladite confrarie, que tous Bacheliars qui doresnavant passeront du jour de leur Licence ung moys ou six sepmaines, il paieront ung marc d'argent, se ilz nont congie desditz Maistres de alonguier le dit temps, au prouffict de la Confrarie. Faict lan mil quatre cens vingt-quatre, le lendemain de la Saint Cosme.

There is here Master of Chirurgery, whose name Jehan Fourtier is so similar to that of the Johannes Tourtier of the MS. as to lend colour to the suggestion that the surgeon, who provided the Duke of Bedford with his copy of Guy de Chauliac was actually this member of the Faculty of Surgeons of Paris.

The question naturally rises, why did the Duke of Bedford ask for this work on surgery?

Serving with the Duke and acting as principal surgeons to the English army of Henry v. were two men, Thomas Morstede and Nicholas Colnet; the latter being a Frenchman was naturally acquainted with Guy de Chauliac's writings, and Thomas Morstede, Surgeon to the King, was a man who took the greatest share in organising the education of surgeons in London.

It was probably at the instance of one or both of his surgeons-in-chief that John, Duke of Bedford, ordered a copy to be made, enjoining perhaps its use upon the surgeons of his army, and thus introducing to the knowledge of English surgeons generally the standard work on the subject, which for two hundred years at least held its ground. In a subordinate capacity served also Richard Ferris, afterwards Sergeant Surgeon to Queen Elizabeth, one of the surgeons depicted by Holbein in his picture of Henry viii. presenting a charter to the Barber Surgeons of London; and a pupil of Ferris, Thomas Gale by name, wrote in 1563 (Just two hundred years after Guy de Chauliac) the first book on Surgery in the English tongue, 1) in which he quotes freely from Guido, who, he says, "requyreth iiij. things in hym that is or shoulde be a Chirurgicalian. First that he shoulde be lettered, secondly, that he shuld be expert, thyrddly, that he be ingenious, and last, that he be vertuous and well manneryd." The quotation is from Guy de Chauliac, and no doubt represents the teaching of his master Richard Ferris, who had been with Bedford in France.

The evidence, that the treatise on Astrology in the Bristol MS. represents the work of Guy de Chauliac and is not a later addition, is fairly conclusive.

The paper appears to be of the same date, the water-mark being the

1). South and Power "The Craft of Surgery" 1886.

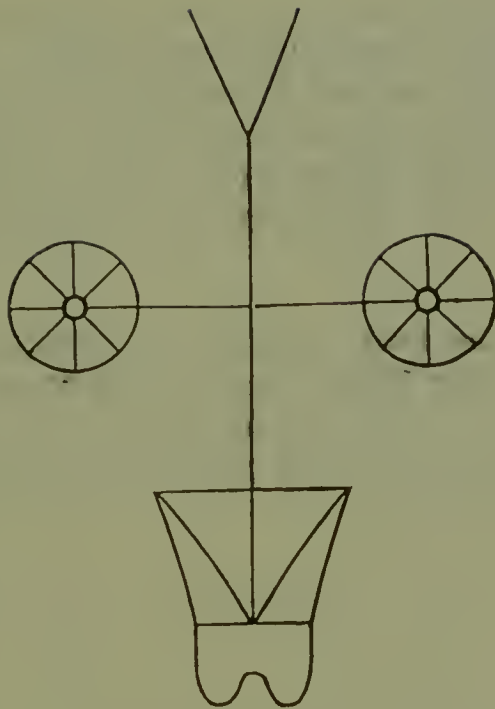
same as that of the blank pages which intervene between the 'Practica Astrolabii' and the 'Surgery;' while some of the pages on which the 'Surgery' itself is written bear this water-mark. Altogether three water-marks are to be found in the volume; one of these only occurs once on a blank leaf before the 'Practica Astrolabii,' and again once at the end of the Volume.



The second is found throughout the 'Practica Astrolabii' and a small part of the 'Surgery', together with the blank pages between.



While the third is that of the greater part of the 'Surgery' and the Latin-English Glossary appended to this work.



The whole of the pages of the MS. have been ruled by a characteristic double line into two columns; this ruling is found to run from the beginning of the 'Practica Astrolabii' through the blank pages to the end of the 'Surgery;' it is of course possible that some one at a later date finding the empty leaves at the beginning of the MS. inserted some astrological work of his own, but in that case, he imitated the handwriting of one of the original copyists of the 'Surgery,' for the writing of the 'Practica Astrolabii' resembles very closely that of certain sections of the 'Surgery' and the same hand evidently corrected the finished work, giving marginal versions of some illegible or inaccurate passages; and, moreover, the writer of the 'Practica Astrolabii' beyond doubt is the same as that of the Latin-English Glossary at the end of the 'Surgery.'

There seems every reason for accepting this manuscript as being one of the earliest known and certainly one of the best authenticated; its date may be approximately fixed by the dedication or inscription to John Duke of Bedford.

Johannes Tourtier Magister in Cirurgia can probably be identified from the records of the University of Montpellier or of Paris.

The book is known to have come into the possession of the City of Bristol in 1615 out of the library of the Archbishop of York: perhaps it would not be beyond the bounds of probability to suggest that this was the original copy introduced into England of a work which played no small part in raising the profession of surgery from a mere handicraft to an honourable and intellectual calling.

I must express my gratitude to Mr. Norris Matthews, Librarian of the City of Bristol, for the opportunities he has given me of inspecting this MS. and for his kind assistance in supplying me with the details of its history and advice on technicalities as to paper, writing and binding, of which previously I knew nothing; also to Mr. D'Arcy Power, F.R.C.S., for information as to the identity of various surgeons referred to in this paper.

NOTE. How the book came to the Archbishop of York is not known, but John Rickingham quondam Master of Gonville Hall, Cambridge, was Confessor to the Duke of Bedford and Chancellor of York from 1410 to 1426. He died in 1429,
